



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 8
999 18TH STREET - SUITE 300
DENVER, CO 80202-2466
Phone 800-227-8917
<http://www.epa.gov/region08>

Ref: EPR-ER

POLREP #2 - FINAL OIL POLLUTION REPORT Aggregate Industries Buried Piping Grand Forks, North Dakota

I. BACKGROUND

Date:	October 1, 2002
Subject:	Aggregate Industries Buried Piping, Grand Forks, ND
POLREP No.:	POLREP 2 - Final
OSC Name:	Joyce Ackerman
Agency:	EPA
Unit:	Region VIII Emergency Response Program 999 18th Street, Suite 300 Denver, Colorado 80202 (303) 312-6822
Party Conducting the Action:	EPA
Federal Project # (FPN):	N01378 (see also FPNs 01369 and 01379)
NPL Status:	Non-NPL
Date Current Action Started:	7-19-2001

II. SITUATION

Date of Original Notification:	7-19-2001
Material Involved:	Black tarry oil
Quantity Discharged:	Unknown, estimated at 500 gallons
Substantial Threat:	None
Resource Affected:	English Coulee and Red River of the North
Source Identification:	Buried Pipe on Asphalt Plant
Demobilization Date:	N/A
Completion Date:	N/A



III. SITE INFORMATION

A. Incident Category

Section 311(c) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1321(c) as amended by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990.

B. Site Description

In the middle of the night, July 19, 2001, Grand Forks, North Dakota was experiencing heavy rains, such that rainwater accumulated in the streets up to the tops of the curbs. A caller to the 911 emergency number reported seeing fuel on top of the rainwater in the vicinity of a truck stop/gas station. The Grand Forks Fire Department responded, and found that diesel fuel was on top of the rainwater and was flowing down the storm drains into the English Coulee. The coulee is a natural water body, like a creek, and is a tributary to the Red River of the North. The Fire Department deployed absorbent booms, a curtain boom, and absorbent pads in the coulee. The Fire Department notified the NRC on July 19, 2001.

On July 25, 2001, the Fire Department contacted EPA's Emergency Response Program requesting assistance both with finances and expertise for the ongoing response. The diesel fuel had contaminated the shoreline for approximately ½ mile, and the fuel-soaked vegetation and soils continued to leach diesel fuel into the coulee. EPA issued a PRFA to the Fire Department.

The next day, July 26, 2001, the Fire Department called again to say they were seeing a black tarry oil in the coulee. The Fire Department requested that EPA handle this new release. OSC Joyce Ackerman responded to the site and began an investigation of the black tarry oil. EPA's cleanup contractor CET mobilized to the site and rented a trackhoe per the OSC's direction. On Saturday, July 28th, the team noticed a small pool of black oil next to the bank of the coulee and used the trackhoe to excavate a test pit at that location. The trackhoe uncovered a buried corrugated pipe approximately 8" in diameter that had black tarry oil in it. The buried pipe appeared to be located inside a square concrete box tunnel also buried underground. The buried pipe and box tunnel is located on the property of Aggregate Industries, which is an asphalt plant. EPA contacted company representatives, who came to look at the pipe and tunnel. OSC Ackerman issued a field Order to Aggregate Industries to excavate the oil-filled pipe and any contaminated soils.

On Monday, July 30th, the company began excavating the box tunnel and buried piping. This effort continued throughout the week. The company also uncovered a buried tank during excavations. Employees at the facility had no knowledge of the buried equipment; apparently the equipment had been used by a previous asphalt company at the site.

The concrete tunnel contained water and a heavy asphaltic oil. The company pumped out this material and disposed of it in accordance with State regulations. The buried tank appears to contain water and is not leaking. A company representative told OSC Ackerman that the tank would be sampled and, in September, removed and disposed. On Thursday, August 2nd, the company

completed excavating the remains of the box tunnel approximately 8 feet away from the shoreline. As the trackhoe continued digging toward the water's edge, more remains of corrugated pipe and black tarry oil and contaminated soil were discovered. On Friday, August 3rd, the company built a small ring dike in the coulee to contain the section of shoreline believed to contain the remains of the pipe. Once this section of shoreline was isolated from the coulee's flowing water, the company continued excavating the shoreline. More oil-filled corrugated pipe and contaminated soil were discovered down to the water's edge. The company excavated this material. No additional contaminated soil was seen in this excavation. The company used the trackhoe to pull the soils from the ring dike back into the excavation, and refilled the excavation with backfill.

The company completed its excavation of the underground storage tank and submitted confirmation soil sampling results to EPA. EPA closed out the field Order on March 14, 2002.

IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION

A. Situation

1. Current situation

All cleanup of the black tarry oil has been completed. No further action for this incident is necessary.

2. Removal Actions to Date

EPA installed a temporary fence around a wetlands area next to a farmer's pasture to protect livestock from exposure to the oily sheen accumulated from the diesel fuel and the tarry black oil. Responders found a dead duck and a dead fish near the contaminated wetlands. Aggregate Industries removed the buried piping and concrete box tunnel that contained heavy asphaltic oil.

3. Enforcement

The buried piping, concrete box tunnel, and buried tank are located on property owned by Aggregate Industries which is an asphalt plant. The property has previously been occupied by other companies who also manufactured asphalt. Some Aggregate Industries employees have worked at the site for 30 years (under different companies) and they did not know this buried equipment existed.

EPA issued a field Order to Aggregate Industries to excavate the buried piping and contaminated soils. **EPA closed out the field Order on March 14, 2002.**

B. Planned Removal Action

No further action for this incident is necessary.

C. Key Issues

There are no key issues identified at this time.

V. COST INFORMATION

EPA opened the fund to respond to the release as follows:

7-25-01 Opened fund for \$10,000 (issued PRFA for \$8,000)

Increased ceiling to \$50,000

EPA discussed this case with Commander Gregory Buie, and determined that issuing separate FPNs for the different sources would simplify cost recovery.

8-8-01 Requested two additional FPNs to segregate the sources. The ceiling for this FPN is now \$50,000.

10-1-02 Costs for the EPA OSC, EPA's START contractor, and EPA's ERRS contractor should be between \$30,000 and \$35,000.